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Letter dated 30 June 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Let me from the outset welcome the report of the Secretary-General on Eritrea (S/2010/327). While the report is not free of inaccuracies and repeats of the erroneous and unfounded allegations made against Eritrea, including the accusations that Eritrea had invaded Djiboutian territory when in fact it had not, the facts and analysis that it presents underline the sheer injustice of the sanctions imposed on Eritrea. The developments over the past few months on the issues of both Eritrea-Djibouti and Somalia, which the report highlights, show that there is no longer any pretext to keep the sanctions in place.

As noted in the report, the agreement signed by the Governments of Eritrea and Djibouti with the facilitation of the Government of Qatar, whose good offices were first requested by Djibouti, is a welcome development.

On Somalia, Eritrea has continued to articulate its considered views and exert efforts for sustainable peace. It participated in the Istanbul Conference on the basis of a gracious invitation extended to it by the Government of Turkey and the United Nations. It would not be appropriate to attribute interpretations to this participation other than Eritrea's sincere desire, together with other participants, for a durable and courageous solution. In Istanbul, Eritrea reiterated that the efforts to find a solution should be guided by certain principles:

- That there can be no military solution to the conflict in Somalia
- That the only real prospect for a lasting resolution of the Somali problem lies in an inclusive political process
- That a durable solution for Somalia can be the outcome only of a Somali-owned and -driven process

Eritrea concurs with the Secretary-General's view of the importance of compliance with the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission decisions for the promotion of peace and stability in the Horn of Africa. Clearly the time has come, and justice makes it imperative, for the Security Council, which has unjustifiably shied away from the issue, to take tangible measures to compel Ethiopia to withdraw from the sovereign Eritrean territories that it is occupying in flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter and international law.

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In his report, the Secretary-General, without giving any specifics, suggests that Eritrea needs to do more. Obviously, all countries in the world need to do more. Clearly, Ethiopia needs to respect the decision of the Boundary Commission and end its illegal occupation of Eritrean territory. As for the Security Council, justice and fairness demand that it lift the sanctions that it unjustifiably imposed on Eritrea.

I would be most grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Araya **Desta**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative